THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Madras Refineries Limited was set up in 1965 as joint venture with NIOC (13%)* and Amoco India Inc. (13%)* and Cochin Refineries Limited was also set up in 1963 as joint venture with Phillips Petroleum Company Ltd. (25%)*. The present shareholdings of these Companies are as under

(i) *Madras Refineries Limited*		
Govt. of India	:	53.75%
National Iranian Oil Co.	:	12.21%
Others	:	34.04%
(ii) *Cochin Refineries Limited*		
Govt. of India	:	55.05%
Govt of Kerala	:	5.08%
Others	:	39.88%

* Equity participation.

Government have issued LOIs for setting up 3 Joint Venture Refineries each with a capacity of 6.0 MMTPA to be located in Eastern India, Central India and Western India by IOC, BPCL and HPCL respectively. Central India Refinery is planned to be implemented at Bina, Madhya Pradesh by BPCL and Oman Oil Company. Investment approval for this project has already been accorded and this refinary is expected to be mechanically completed by December, 1999. Eastern India Refinary is planned to be located in Orissa by IOC and Kuwait Petroleum Company. West Coast Refinery is planned to be located in Maharashtra by HPCL and Oman Oil Company. Both Eastern India and Western India Refineries are under various stages of processing for investment approval.

Recently, in pursuance of this policy, LOIs have also been granted to HPCL and BPCL for setting up refineries in Joint Venture in Punjab with Saudi Aramco and Uttar Pradesh with Shell International Petroleum Co. respectively. The details of the equity participation in these Joint Venture Refineries are as under:—

PSU	:	26%
JV Partner	:	26%
Public	:	48%

Exploration Contracts and Accretion to Oil and Gas Reserves

610. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the RPIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many exploration contracts for crude and natural gas have been awarded since 1990, year-wise, and for which areas/basins/blocks;

(b) what has been the normal success rate of such contracts and the progress in exploration and accretion to reserves through these contracts;

(c) in what manner the new potential areas, including deep waters, are sought to be explored for accretion to reserves of crude oil and natural gas and by when; and

(d) what is the policy of government in this regard; including invitation for private investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Information is given in enclosed statement (*See* below):

(b) It is too early to comment on the success of the contracts as these blocks are in the initial phase of exploration. No reserves have so far been accreted due to these contracts.

(c) In the Central Indian Basins, one location Tihki-1 in South Rewa was drilled to 4019 m which proved to be dry. Another location Anhoni-1 Satpura is currently under drilling. One location has been identified for drilling in Vindhyan basin. In addition to intensifying the exploratory effort in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan it is proposed to initiate exploratory drilling in Ganga Valley areas in U.P. and north bank of

river Brahamputra Regarding deep water areas, 2 locations each in Western and eastern offshore have been prioritised for drilling and likely to be taken up in post monsoon period of 1997-98.

(d) *The Acclerated Exploration (Apex) Programme*

Apex seeks to intensigy exploration efforts and increase crude oil production through:

(i) *National Seismic Programme*

To study the configuration of some of the less known and new sedimentary basins in the country.

(ii) *Deep Water Exploration*

Special surveys in deep sea (beyond 200 metres of water depth) to find drillable prospects.

(iii) *Exploration in Frontier Areas*

A number of frontier areas hither-to not explored owing to hostile environment, geological problems, lack o technology etc. to be subjected to intensive attention.

(iv) *Overseas Activities*

Acquisition of acreage/reserves abroad by NOC's would be encouraged either on their own or by taking a farm in share in prospective areas blocks.

2. In order to attract private investment Government of India has been inviting offers from Indian & foreign private companies for exploration and development in oil and gas sector from time to time. So far, Government o India has awarded contracts for 35 exploration blocks and 30 discovered fields.

Statement

Blocks/Basins for which Contracts have been awarded

Year of award	No. of blocks	Name of Block/Basin
1992	2	KG-OS-90/1 Krishna Godavari
		GN-ON-90/3 Pranhita Godavari (onshore)
1993	3	CY-OS-90/1 Cauvery Offshore
		RJ-ON-90/1 Barmer Sanchor
		GK-ON-90/2 Gujarat-kutch
1994	6	BB-OS/5 Bombay Offshore
		CY/OS/2 Cauvery Offshore
		RJ-ON-90/4 } Rajasthan Basin
		RJ-ON-90/5 }
		GK-OS/5 Gujarat-Kutch Offshore
		KG-OS/6 Krishna Godavari Offshore
1995	3	CB-OS/1 Cambay offshore
		CB-ON/2 Cambay onshore
		CB-ON/7 Cambay onshore
1996	21	CB-OS/2 Cambay offshore
		RJ-ON/6 Rajasthan Basin
		CB-ON/1 Cambay onshore
		CB-ON/3 Cambay Onshore
		CB-ON/4 -do-
		CB-ON/5 -do-
		AA-ON/3 Assam-Arakan onshore
		GK-ON/4 Gujarat-Kutch onshore
		SR-OS-94/1 Saurashtra Offshore

Year of award	No. of blocks	Name of Block/Basin
	:	AA-ON/4 Assam-Arakan Basin
	:	AA-ON/6 -do-
	:	AAP-ON-94/1 -do-
	:	AA-ON/7 -do-
	:	CR-ON 90/1 -do-
	:	BB-OS/8 Bombay offshore
	:	KG-ON/1 Krishna Godavari onshore
	:	AA-ONJ-2 Assam-Arakan
	:	GK-OSJ-1 Gujarat-Kutch offshore
	:	GK-OSJ-3 Gujarat-Kutch offshore
	:	JM-ONJ-1 Jaisalmer Basin
	:	RJ-ONJ-94/1 Rajasthan Basin

ONGC Strike

611. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Gas supply to industries hit as ONGC strike continue", which appeared in the Hindu dated Ist February, 1997; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Despite the relay hunger strike by the representatives of the Joint Action Committee of all political parties at Rajahmundry, drilling and production operations of ONGC Ltd. continued uninterrupted and supply of gas was also not affected.

Waiting List for LPG Agencies and Connections in Bihar

612. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for LPG agencies in Bihar;

(b) the number of LPG agencies allotted till date and the number of those still to be allotted;

(c) the number of consumers in the State, district-wise;

(d) the number of consumers in the waiting list for LPG connections till date, district-wise;

(e) by when this waiting list would be cleared;

(f) whether there is an acute shortage in the supply of LPG cylinders in the State; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) As on 1.10.1996, there were 206 LPG distributors with a customer population of 8.65 lakhs, having a waiting list of 8.94 lakhs in the State of Bihar. 8265 applications for 110 LPG distributorships were pending for selection with Oil Selection Board, Bihar.

(e) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country including the State of Bihar depending upon the availability of LPG, new customer enrolement plan, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability. All the